

Public Hearing

On Health Impacts on Workers, Workers' Families, and Community/ies From Legacy Activities, Current, and Potential Future Activities

Representative Udall, Senator Brigham and Mr. David Michael of the Department of Energy.

My Name is J. Gilbert Sanchez, I am the executive Director of Tribal Environmental watch Alliance(TEWA), I am a member of the Pueblo of San Ildefonso, I am not here representing the Tribe. I, am here standing before you as the Chair of the People of Color and Disenfranchised Communities, National Environmental Health Network, who has representation from all DOE weapons cycle site, and includes DOD Sites where Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Warfare materials have been developed, tested, stored, prepared for shipment, and disposed of, etc.

The Members of People of Color and Disenfranchised Communities have been involved in the very struggle you are now here today having this hearing on. The Health Impacts of the Nuclear Weapons Cycle as defined in the Department of Energy's Publication of January 1997, Linking Legacies.

The State of New Mexico is host to the complete Nuclear Cycle as defined in the DOE Publication of January 1997. The State of New Mexico' People have carried a higher burden for this Country' Nuclear Weapons Program and it will Continue to do this now and into the future. Northern Central New Mexico has been a Colony of the State of California since the Manhattan Project was established here. For Too many years the National Laboratory has been protected first by our Federal Governments, the State of California' Environmental and Labor Laws, and in the most recent past by our own State's Representatives using economic dominance and dependency to continue the Negative Health Impacts on our Brothers and Sister who choose to take jobs within the National Laboratory employment opportunities.

What we understand to be a proposal to address the Health impacts on worker's, workers' families and community falls short of the liability that the Federal Government has to it's People who are the reason the Nuclear weapons programs exist. THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE, which has for to many years prevent this country from addressing the negative impacts on the health of the overall communities at which this Country's Nuclear Weapons Cycle is present, is decades behind in addressing those illness now present within our communities and impacting our children and the future generations.

Los Alamos National Laboratory(LANL), in it's past practices have released workers, and have made them feel like fools for complaining of the ill effects on their health from their employment and handling of materials. That Scientist, knew from the very beginning that uranium was going to impact the miners and millers respiratory systems, so the miners and millers were given cigarettes to cover their future health

impacts, so that the TRUE cause would not be found and liability could not be placed on our Federal Government. The same is true of the Nuclear Sites Plutonium handlers they too were given all the cigarettes they could smoke while at the job site.

Our Federal Government found it less liable by having contractors managing our Federal Facilities. And Los Alamos National Laboratory has taken full advantage of this over the years. Their lack of adherence to their own Health and Safety regulations and guidelines have endangered and in some cases killed their employees while using National Security to prevent employees, their families and Federal Agencies from getting complete information on concerns on the impacts of theirs and others (community) health.

Los Alamos National Laboratory, has impacted many more Peoples health than are present in this room today. The impacts on health are not restricted to within the fenced areas at LANL but to the total Environment Health of North Central New Mexico, the State of New Mexico, but the whole of this country we all live in and know as our AMERICA.

The following are recommendations that I feel can best address the issues you are here trying to address:

Recommendation #1. That all current, former and survivors of employees at all Nuclear Weapons Cycle Sites as defined in the January 1997 Publication of the DOE's Linking Legacies be compensated for their health impacts or losses from those impacts from the time they were released from their duty station to date for the living employees and that those who have suffered losses be justly compensated for their loss.

Recommendation #2. That those former, current employees and their community be compensated in a manner by which their current and future health care needs are met, so that their quality of life would be as best as can be, in a manner that this would be as less a financial burden on them and their family or community.

Recommendation #3. That the DOE through those Federal Health Agencies, pay for funding of retraining of first line medical staff at those Nuclear Weapons Sites as defined in the DOE Publication of 1997 Linking Legacies, in manner as to address those illnesses present and into the future which are common at the Nuclear Weapons Cycle Sites.